

WYCOMBE FIGHT BACK TO SNATCH ISTHMIAN POINTS

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Woking 1.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS produced the type of fighting comeback which makes league champions when they picked themselves off the floor to win this tough uncompromising clash with Woking at Loakes Park on Saturday.

This was real cut-and-thrust league football. Woking's defence-in-depth plan looked like paying dividends until Keith Samuels popped up to head the winner late in the second half.

Woking set out determined to knock Wycombe out of their stride and niggling and frustrating tactics worked all right in the first-half—but only inspired Wycombe into putting more effort into their second half performance.

The Wanderers were reinforced by the return of stalwarts Paul Bates and John Beck. While Beck slotted comfortably into the left-back position, Bates had far from an easy passage. He looked yards slower than his colleagues and was unable to move off the ball with any real effect.

FRAYED TEMPERS

Tempers on both sides were frayed and often the tackling was clumsy and dangerous. In the first half Wycombe showed little co-ordination in their build-up and when a promising move did materialise there was always a red shirt in the way.

After 23 minutes Woking took a surprise lead. From a corner by Cooper, Maskell was harassed into dropping the ball

by McBryde to give Tindall the simple task of heading home.

Having established this early break-through Woking decided to hold it at all costs. They pulled forwards back and made only spasmodic raids into the Wanderers' half. And desperation crept into Wycombe's play as they battled unsuccessfully against the stonewall defence. Only once did the forwards combine with any real danger, in the first-half, when Worley and Horseman set-up a diving header for Bates which keeper Farris did well to reach.

ONE WAY

In the second half it was all one-way traffic. Wycombe kept coming forward like storm-troopers, never giving the over-worked Woking defence a moment's respite. Horseman headed over, Bates slashed wildly over and Worley shot straight at the keeper.

In fact, Wycombe dominated the second period so much that they forced ten corners. Woking's defence withstood tremendous pressure but surely it had to crack? It did in the 63rd minute. The visitors' rearguard had just cleared the Wanderers' fifth successive corner when the ball was cleared to Worley.

Len crossed the ball deep into the Woking area and, with Bates challenging keeper Farris dropped the ball and there was Tony Horseman pivoting beautifully to crack home the equaliser low into the right hand corner.

The vital goal came as Horseman flicked the ball to Merrick who headed back into the Woking goalmouth and there was Samuels bursting between two defenders to head past the stranded Farris.

Woking were now forced to come out of their defensive shell but Wycombe were in no mood to let these two hardly won points slip.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Rundle, Beck; Baker, Faulkner, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Woking: Farris; Norgate, Elton; Finn, Lewis, McPhee; McBryde, Cooper, Tindall, O'Riordon, Woods.